

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
July 13, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Koehn, Lindsey, Nesbitt, Paterson  
Excused: Haddad, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2009 minutes. Council members offered corrections and additions. The Town Clerk will review the records of the meeting for clarification. The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed. Ms. Lindsey requested copies of the two ordinances approved at the last meeting be disseminated to the Town Council. The Clerk will do so.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, reported that a CNN poll listing the nicest places to live did not include Mansfield in the top 100. He would like the Council to strive to make that list next year. He also commented that he saw Public Work Employees "killing time" at the General Store during working hours and an EMT working out at the Community Center during his shift while his partner sat in the ambulance. He would like the Council to review this policy.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to move Item 4, Presentation: UConn Climate Action Plan, as the next item of business. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Matt Hart distributed his Town Manager's report and a memorandum on the Inter-local Agreement with Columbia (January 1-June 30, 2009). The memorandum is an update for the Council on the specifics of the recently completed inter-local agreement with Columbia for financial services. The net revenue to the Town was \$6,890.

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Mr. Hart also announced that he and new Council member, Meredith Lindsey, had an opportunity to meet and discuss Mansfield's form of government, current issues, and Ms. Lindsey's interest and goals. Mr. Hart stated that he is looking forward to working with Ms. Lindsey.

Mr. Hart will look into the issue of employees at the General Store during working hours raised by Mr. Hossack. He also commented that the Town's employee wellness program is something Mansfield can be very proud of and one of the components of that program encourages firefighters and EMTs to exercise at the Community Center during their shifts.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager announced the Town/University Committee would not meet in July. The Committee's recommendation to modify the makeup of the Town/University Committee will be brought before the Council.

Mayor Paterson reported that she and co-chair Jim Hintz are working to develop a more organized agenda for the upcoming fall schedule of the Community Campus Partnership.

### 2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager will be attending the Department of Public Health's forum on regional drinking water supplies to be held tomorrow, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Koehn will also attend.

### 3. Freedom of Information Act Policy Update

Assistant to the Town Manager, Maria Capriola reviewed the implementation of the changes to the procedures for handling Freedom of Information requests. The newly instituted process allows for a more organized and timely response to those requests. Ms. Capriola also reviewed the number and nature of the requests and described recently held training sessions, facilitated by Freedom of Information Education

Specialist Tom Hennick. A training session was conducted for staff, and a separate one for advisory board members and the public.

Mr. Clouette requested the process be named the Freedom of Information Administrative Procedures.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 4. Presentation: UConn Climate Action Plan

The Town Manager introduced and welcomed Rich Miller, Director of the UConn office of Environmental Policy and Meghan Ruta, Climate Action Plan Project Manager. Mr. Hart noted that President Hogan has appointed him to the 8-member UConn Climate Action Task Force.

Mr. Miller, who serves on the Town of Mansfield's Sustainability Committee, commented that the partnering efforts between the Town and the University show the importance of the issue to both entities.

Meghan Ruta presented the Council with an overview of UConn's Climate Action Planning Process. She briefly explained the reasons for and effects of the climate change that is currently underway. Ms. Ruta outlined the steps taken by the University in pursuance of the goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. In describing the emission reduction strategy, Ms. Ruta noted that energy generation is responsible for 84% of UConn's emissions and transportation is responsible for 13% of their emissions.

Ms. Ruta will provide an electronic copy of her presentation to the Council as well as a copy of the draft energy report the group has been working on. She also recommended the Town view the Clean Air Cool Planet website which has a user-friendly Small Town Carbon Calculator component.

Mayor Paterson thanked Ms. Ruta for her presentation and Mr. Miller for being so willing to partner with the Town whether it is for a request for information or a willingness to participate in the Town's endeavors.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to recess as the Town Council and to convene as the Mansfield Resource Recovery Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. MRRA, Single Stream Recyclable Processing Agreement

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded, effective July 13, 2009, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a single stream recyclable processing agreement by and between Willimantic Waste Paper Company, Inc, and the Town of Mansfield, for an initial term to run from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014.

Members discussed the concept of single stream recycling. Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, stated the reason single stream recycling is now beneficial is that the technology of sorting has gotten better and Willimantic Waste Paper Company has made the necessary investments to make this technology effective. Any possible changes in the operation of Town transfer station will have to be carefully studied by staff, as the current process is very efficient.

Mr. Clouette suggested, as a friendly amendment, to add, "...as a successor agreement to the existing contract" after the word "execute".

Agreed to by Ms. Duffy, the motion, as amended, passed.

6. MRRA, Solid Waste Collection Fees – In-yard and Long Driveways

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded, effective October 1, 2009, to set the in-yard refuse/recycling collection fee surcharge at \$12.00 for driveways up to 300 feet and \$15.75 for driveways longer than 300 feet.

Ms. Koehn expressed concern for the disabled and elderly who might not be able to move their refuse and recycling to the curb. Members agreed that this was a concern not just for the disabled but also for the frail. Staff will review the established policies of the Town regarding waivers to determine both the current process and possible options.

Mr. Clouette moved to table the motion to the next meeting at which time the information will be presented. Seconded by Ms. Koehn the motion passed.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn as the Mansfield Resource Recovery Authority and reconvene as the Town Council.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Staff Report on Storrs Center Parking

The Town Manager opened the discussion by asking Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren and Mansfield Downtown Partnership Inc, Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm to discuss their initial research and recommendations for a comprehensive parking management plan. Staff would like to gain Town Council input before making any recommendation for a Parking Steering Committee.

Ms. Koehn suggested, prior to forming an advisory committee, the Council first make the decision whether parking is a municipal responsibility and how to best manage the parking. Other members expressed concerns that they do not have enough expertise and knowledge to make the necessary decisions. There was also a concern expressed that if the Council alone makes all the decisions, two of the largest stakeholders, UConn and Region 19, would have no input.

Mr. Nesbitt distributed an outline describing a broader based view of a steering committee, which would look at all related parking issues in Storrs Center. His view is that the steering committee, made up of a broad base of stakeholders, would take a look at the management, construction and financing of the project and provide the information to the Council.

By consensus the Council agreed that the Staff would use Mr. Nesbitt's outline as a starting point and make recommendations for a broad based steering committee.

## VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Reports

## VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Nesbitt reported the next meeting of the Four Corner Sewer Advisory Committee will be held on July 21, 2009 and focus on the general design of the system in relation to the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Ms. Koehn, reporting for the Personnel Committee, stated the group discussed transparency in government. She also reported that although the Quality of Life Committee had no quorum they did discuss the concept of a student rental zone.

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Finance Committee reviewed the budget process and agreed that the focus on programs in the budget workshops, the citizen guides, the mailing, the pared down presentation at the Town Meeting and the use of the projector to show the motions currently in order were all very helpful. The members also discussed how individual members' requests for information are handled given the time constraints of the process. Those present at the Finance Committee meeting discussed whether or not a majority of members should agree that specific information would be helpful. The Committee agreed that a structure for resolving requests for information be established. They agreed that all request for information should be addressed and perhaps the Council needs more feedback from staff regarding the restraints of time. The group also suggested the beginning point of the budget should be a review of the goals and objectives of each department and then determine how budget changes affect those goals. Mr. Clouette also announced that a copy of the approved budget would be provided to each Council member.

Ms. Duffy moved to recommend that Saul Nesselroth be appointed as an alternate member of the Ethics Board and that Kevin Grunwald be appointed as a member of the Windham Regional Community Council. The motion to approve the recommendations passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No Reports

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Paterson expressed her displeasure at the letters regarding the reduction in Toddler Time at the Library. She was not upset with the signers of the letters, but rather was concerned that the letters were distributed by staff. The Mayor noted that the Council did not cut the program, that was the decision of the director.

Ms. Koehn questioned whether staff is prohibited from entering into the politics of the Town. The Town Manager will prepare a response to the citizens explaining the process and thanking them for writing. He also stated that once the Council makes a decision the job of staff is to implement that decision.

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, reiterated his request for a Council initiated referendum regarding the Downtown Project. Using reverse psychology he asked the Council to raise his taxes next year.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, discussed the cost analysis of the inter-local agreement with Columbia.

Ed Smith, Storrs Road, complimented the Council and the Town Manager on their work, commenting that good government was one of the reasons he moved to Mansfield.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Elizabeth M Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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